Allocation of foodgrains to BPL households in Kerala

1983. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BPL households identified by the Government of Kerala;

(b) the number of BPL households for which foodgrains at BPL rate are allocated;

(c) the reasons for the difference, if any;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala has represented to allocate foodgrains at BPL rate to all identified families; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) The State Government of Kerala reported in April, 2007 number of BPL families in the State as 20.22 lakh. In November, 2007, the number of BPL families including AAY families has been reported as 20.85 lakhs.

The Government of India allocates foodgrains to the States including Kerala, for BPL families (including Antyodaya Anna Yojana Families), worked out on the basis of poverty Estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 and Population Project of Registrar General of India for 1st March, 2000 or the number of cards issued, whichever is less.

The number of BPL families in Kerala on this basis is 15.54 lakh. Therefore, allocations of foodgrains to the State of Kerala under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are being made for 15.54 lakh BPL families.

The difference in the number of BPL families used by the Government of India for making allocations and those reported by the State Government is because the State Government has issued ration cards to higher number of BPL families based on its own identification.

The State Government has requested for increasing allocations of foodgrains on the basis of BPL ration cards issued by it. Since the Government of india makes allocations of foodgrains to all the States and UTs based on the above mentioned norms (1993-94 poverty estimate and March, 2000 population estimate), the request of the State Government has not been accepted.

Import of pulses

1984. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of imports of pulses has gone up;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to step up indigenous production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Prices of imported pulses mainly chana, tur, masoor, yellow and dun peas have shown an increase during the last one year. As per information received from trade circles, this is on account of the 25-30% lower production as compared to the

previous years mainly due to drought conditions in Canada and Australia, who are the major producers of Gram, Peas Masoor and Dun peas. The prices of Urad and Moong in international market are on the lower side. The reason for the rising trend in Arhar is due to higher demand from Indian importers. The details of International prices of pulses over different periods in the last year is given in the Table below.

International prices of pulses

Rate in USD/PMT CNF Indian Ports

Sl. No.	Item Name	Centre/ Country	Price as on 28.11.07	Price 1 Month ago	Price 3 Month ago	6 Month ago	Price 1 year ago
1.	Chana	AUS	590-610	570-580	560-570	560-570	575-600
2.	Urad	Myanmar	575-625	525-550	580-600	650-680	665-680
3.	Tur	Myanmar	575-630	520-580	535-580	350-380	340-345
4.	Masoor	Canada	625-635	620-630	625-640	600-620	NA
5.	Moong	Myanmar	550-620	540-600	630-680	640-670	620-650
6.	Yellow Peas	Canada/ France	500-515	360-370	360-370	330-340	320-340
7.	Dunpeas	Aus	490-500	360-370	350-360	315-325	310-325

Source: NAFED

(c) Efforts made by Government to increase the production of pulses

(i) Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize

The Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is being implemented from 01.04.2004, in order to promote crop diversification, to provide focused approach and to provide flexibility to the States in implementation, based on regionally differentiated approach. Implementation of production programme has helped in increasing the production of pulses in the country from 128.60 lakh in 1989-90 to 142.3 (*4th Advance Estimate*) tonnes in 2006-07.

(ii) National Food Security Mission-Pulses

In pursuance of the resolution adopted in the 53rd meeting of National Development Council (NDC), Government has recently launched National Food Security Mission (NFSM) comprising rice, wheat and pulses during XI Plan. In order to achieve additional 20 lakh tonnes of pulses production, an area expansion of 2.47 million ha through intercropping with pigeon pea, cereals, cotton, sugarcane, oilseeds, replacement of rainfed upland paddy during kharif and another 2.0 million ha by utilizing rice fallows in major rice growing states (in rabi) has been targeted during XI Five Year Plan under NFSM-Pulses. The NFSM-Pulses is being implemented in 168 district of 14 major pulses growing states.

The major interventions of NFSM-Pulses are as under:—

* Increasing seed replacement rate to 25% from present level of 7-8% through targeted seed production programme of improved varieties/hybrids of pulses.

* Popularisation of improved production technologies through supply of critical inputs to the beneficiary farmers.
* Demonstration of Integrated Nutrient Managment (INM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technologies.
* Promotion of micro nutrients, gypsum application and bio-fertilisers.
* Promotion of sprinkler irrigation to provide life saving irrigation of pulses.
* Pilot project on tackling the menace of blue bull (Neel Gai) which has emerged as a major threat to pulse crops.
* Extension, training and mass media campaign including awards for best performing districts/states.
* Pilot project to enhance pulse productivity/production through demonstration of Technologies and Practices development if ICRISAT.

(iii) Once the National Food Security Mission-Pulses (NFSM-Pulses) becomes operational in the selected 168 pulse growing districts in 14 states of the country, the pulse programme under ISOPOM (Integrated Scheme on Pulses, Oilseeds and Maize) will cease to operate in these districts.

Pulses and Kerosene oil to slum dwellers and BPL card holders through PDS

1985. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Government of Capital State has decided to give two pulses at 25 per cent subsidized rates to slum dwellers and BPL card holders through PDS and increase monthly quota of Kerosene oil from 8 to 22 liters; and

(b) if so, what about the slum dwellers and BPL persons in other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As reported by Government of NCT of Delhi, it has distributed channa dal and arhar dal at 25% subsidized rate *i.e* channa dal @22.74 per kg. per month and Arhar dal @ Rs. 26.03 per month per ration card to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Juggi Resettlement Colonies (JRC) from March, 2007 to August, 2007. For distribution during subsequent period, tenders have been invited from open market. The card holders are being distributed 22 litres of Kerosene oil per month @ Rs. 9.16 per litre.

(b) To increase overall availability, Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSU) have been importing pulses for sale in the open market. It has been decided that the States and UT Governments desirous of importing pulses for distribution to ration card holders/other consumers within their respective States and Union Territories may avail of services of CPSUs/NAFED for this purpose. the CPSUs and NAFED were also advised to consider such requests of State Governments/UTs on priority basis.

PDS Kerosene oil is an allocated product. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas makes allocation to States/UTs for further distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) network. The quantity of PDS Kerosene Oil for distribution per card holder is decided by